(c) the items that his Ministry is trying to retrieve from other countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Efforts have been initiated for return of the image of Saraswati, presently displayed in the British Museum, London through the diplomatic channels.

(c) No, Sir. There are no such items.

Beach Tourism on the Western Coast

1511. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering on utilising the country's West Coastline like Mumbai, Goa, Mangalore, Cochin and Tuticorin for the betterment and boosting of beach tourism;

(b) if so/the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for increasing beach tourism while involving the concerned State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/spots is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Govt, of India provides financial assistance for the identified tourism projects in consultation with them.

During the year 2002-2003, the Department of Tourism has identified and sanctioned Southern Circuit comprising Cochin, Kumarakom, Kottayam, Quilon, Thiruvananthapuram as Backwaters and Beach Circuits for development. Department of Tourism has also sanctioned Konkan Riviera Circuit comprising Goa, Coastal Karnataka and Bekal, alongwith Tagore & Om Beach in Karnataka. Department of Tourism has also asked Coastal States to identify Tourism Zones for seeking exemption from CRZ regulations.